(c) All proposals for declaration of State Highways as National Highways received from the State Governments have been returned in June, 2002 for review, based on revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is ban on declaration of new National Highways, due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few state Highways as National Highways during the course of Tenth Five year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Road Connection between Raipur and Bhubaneswar

310. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to connect Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa with Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh by National Highway;

(b) whether the proposal to upgrade the State Road from Berhampur in Orissa upto Raipur in Chhattisgarh via Karaput is proposal to be considered in order to implement the above proposal;

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter, and

(d) what are the other State Roads in Orissa and Chhattisgarh which are proposed to be upgraded to provide better communication between these two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C.KHANDURI): (a) Bhubaneswar and Raipur are already connected by the following National Highways:

(i) Bhubaneswar to Cuttack (NH-5)

(ii) Cuttack to Sambalpur (NH-42)

(iii) Sambalpur to Raipur (NH-6)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All the proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways have been returned to the respective State Governments including Orissa and Chhattisgarh in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, cosider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, interse priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

SSIs in Assam

311. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the integrated infrastructure development works for small scale industries, in rural areas of Assam; and

(b) the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government for effective implementation of the plan formulated for small scale industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C. P. THAKUR) (a) On the request of the Government of Assam, four projects under Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme located at Bhomoraguri, district Nagaon, Dalagon, district Darrang, Malini Beel, District Cachar and Demow, District Sibsagar, have ben sanctioned. Funding pattern for setting up IID Centres in Assam provides for central grant of 80% of the project cost with a maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore for each IID Centre. Central grant of Rs. 5.00 crore has been released to the Assam Industrial Development Corporation, the Implementing Agency for these projects. The work relating to the creation of the integrated infrastructure for these centres is making steady progress as per the available reports.

(b) In order to facilitate establishment of small scale industries in the State of Assam, the Central Government had set up the Small Industries Service Institute at Guwahati with branches at Silchar and Tezpur under the Small Industries Development Organisation. These Institutes organise training programmes for Skill/Entrepreneurship/Management Development, carry out motivational campaigns throughout the State, provide techno-